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(*b*) if so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The report is under print and copies will be placed in the library of the Legislature in due course for information of the hon. Members."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are considering the report and whether they are going to implement any of the suggestions that have been made by the Special Officer? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In answer to question (*b*) the Hon. Chief Minister was pleased to say that a copy will be placed in the library of the Legislature. May I ask, Sir, whether copies will be supplied to the Members of this House? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I have said that it will be placed in the library of the Legislature in due course. If hon. Members want any further assistance in the matter, the Government will be very willing to help."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the report submitted by the Special Officer for development work in Ramanathapuram district includes Pudukkottai also? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member can give notice of a separate question."

Sales tax on fish.

* 56 Q.—SRI C. H. KANARAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government have exempted fish catch including those cured in the fish-curing yard sold by fishermen from sales tax; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representation from fishermen's organization in the West Coast to the effect that the curers should be treated as producers of fish to be placed on a par with agricultural producers and therefore exempt from the sales tax and whether the Government have passed orders on these representations?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (*a*) The Government have not exempted fish including those cured in the fish-curing yards from sales tax. They have, however, revised the rate of taxation in respect of dealers in flowers, fish and mutton with effect from 1st April 1951, as shown below :—

(i) If the turnover of the dealer is not less than Rs. 10,000 per annum but does not exceed Rs. 15,000 per annum—Rs. 96 per annum ;

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(ii) if the turnover exceeds Rs. 15,000 per annum, but does not exceed Rs. 20,000 per annum—Rs. 144 per annum;

(iii) if the turnover exceeds Rs. 20,000 per annum, tax is levied at the usual rate of 3 pies per rupee on the entire turnover.

"(*b*) Yes. Representations have been received from the Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahajana Sangha, the Fish Curers' Association, Tellicherry and Thalayi, the West Coast Fisheries Association, and various other small associations that the sale of fish generally or at least in the raw *state* be exempted from tax and that dry fish sold by fish merchants should also be exempted from tax. The representations are under the consideration of the Government in consultation with the Board of Revenue and the Director of Fisheries."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" May I ask, Sir, when sales tax on fish was first introduced and do the Government consider that fish curers and fish merchants also should pay sales tax? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" It is under examination, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that there is a great shortage of food in our State and that fish is a supplementary food, will the Government consider the necessity of abolishing sales tax on fish altogether? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" As a general rule, it may not be done. But in certain cases, the Government have revised the rates of taxation as I have already stated in my answer."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that the fishing folk are generally backward, will the Government as a gesture to backward people, withdraw collection of sales tax from fish curers? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" It is a general question regarding backward communities. As I have already said, the question is being examined in the case of those poor fishermen who are directly dealing in fish."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" May I know whether this concession is intended for the fishermen who are actually dealing in fish or for the businessmen who trade in fish? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" Sometimes the fishermen also deal in fish. But, actually this concession has been given to those dealing in fish business including those catching fish."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the considered policy of this Government to continue to tax the essential food articles in this State? "

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THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO:—" I cannot discuss the policy of the Government in answering a question, Sir."

Scheme of Separation of Judiciary from the Executive.

* 57 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER:—" As the hon. Member Sri V. Gopala Gounder is not in his seat, the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number and names of districts in which the " Scheme of Separation of Judiciary from the Executive " is yet to be extended; and

(*b*) whether the Government intend extending this scheme to these districts in the near future; and if so, the probable date?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" (*a*) Nine—

(1) Madurai,

(2) Tiruchirappalli,

(3) Tanjore,

(4) East Godavari.

(5) West Godavari,

(6) Krishna,

(7) Guntur,

(8) Malabar and

(9) South Kanara.

" (*b*) Yes, it is the intention, but it is not possible now to indicate the probable date."

Extent of land taken over by the Government under Zamindari Abolition Act.

* 58 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total extent of land taken over by the Government under the Zamindari Abolition Act;

(*b*) the total amount of money paid to the zamindars as compensation up to 31st March 1952;

(*c*) the total revenue derived by the Government from those lands up to 31st March 1952; and

(*d*) the extent of such land granted to (*a*) the Harijans and (*b*) the landless poor?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (*a*) The total extent of land taken over by the Government under the Estates Abolition Act is 16,840·86 square miles.